

In paragraph 3 of the action, the examiner stated that the proposed amendments would not be entered because they raised new issues under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, and under 35 U.S.C. 251 (new matter).

Claims 180, 206, 212, 242, 275, 318, 351, 382, and 416 have been amended as suggested by the examiner. Each of these claims has been amended to recite an oligomeric diradical of the formula $-R-C(O)-O-(CH_2)_d-O-C(O)-$. The formula in each of the previous versions of these claims lacked the terminal C(O) group. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, e.g., at col. 4, line 21.

Each of these claims has also been amended to use proper Markush terminology; in the definition of G, "or" has been changed to "and." Each of these claims has also been amended to delete inappropriate commas. Each of these claims has also been amended to replace "radical" with "diradical" in the ninth line of the claim.

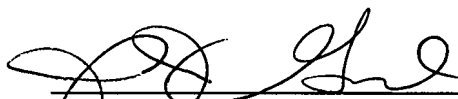
In addition, claim 206 has been amended to depend upon claim 205. It is believed that these amendments place claims 163-299 in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for examination, which action is requested. Filed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Petition for Automatic Extension with the required fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/20/00


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